

TOP COW

# LEGACY OF KAIN

— D E F I A N C E —

www.topcow.com



1 \$2.99 \$4.60  
US CAN  
JANUARY



IMAGECOMICS.COM  
DIRECT COVER

00111

7 09853 59622 4

eldos



WRITER:  
**SCOTT TUCKER**

PENCILER  
**TYLER KIRKHAM**

DIGITAL INKS  
**STEPHANIE LESNIAK**  
**CHAZ RIGGS**

COLORIST  
**TYSON WENGLER**

LETTERERS  
**DREAMER DESIGN'S**  
**ROBIN SPEHAR**  
**DENNIS HEISLER**  
**MARK ROSLAN**

EDITOR  
**RENAE GEERLINGS**

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
**JIM MCLAUCHLIN**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS  
**PETER LAM**  
**PHIL SMITH**  
**HARMONY ELLINGTON**  
**SINA GRACE**

DESIGN  
**STEPHANIE LESNIAK**

PRODUCTION  
**ALVIN COATS**  
**CHAZ RIGGS**

COVER 1  
**KEU CHA**

COVER 2  
**EIDOS/DREAMWAVE**

SPECIAL THANKS:

**MATT KNOLES AND THE FOLKS AT EIDOS INC.**  
**AMY HENNIG AND THE LEGACY OF KAIN TEAM AT CRYSTAL DYNAMICS**

Submit letters for the letters column to Renae at:  
Legacy of Kain c/o Top Cow Productions Inc.  
10350 Santa Monica Blvd. No. 100, Los Angeles, Ca. 90025

**MARC SILVESTRI**, chief executive officer  
**MATT HAWKINS**, president / chief operating officer  
**JIM MCLAUCHLIN**, editor-in-chief  
**RENAE GEERLINGS**, vp of publishing / managing editor  
**CHRIS CARLISLE**, vp of creative affairs  
**DAVID WOHL**, consulting editor  
**JOEL ELAD**, director of sales and marketing  
**ALVIN COATS**, special projects coordinator  
**STEPHANIE LESNIAK**, graphic designer  
**SCOTT TUCKER**, associate editor  
**CHAZ RIGGS**, production

for Legacy of Kain previews, message boards and more go to  
**www.topcow.com**



**PRINTED BY QUANTUM COLOR FX**

**LEGACY OF KAIN: DEFIANCE™ Vol. 1, Issue 1, JANUARY 2004. FIRST PRINTING.** Published by Image Comics Inc. Office of Publication: 1071 North Batavia Street Suite A Orange, California 92667. Legacy of Kain: Defiance © 2003 Crystal Dynamics. Developed by Crystal Dynamics. Published by Eidos, Inc. Crystal Dynamics, the Crystal Dynamics logo, Legacy of Kain, and the related characters are trademarks of Crystal Dynamics. Eidos, and the Eidos logo are trademarks of the Eidos Group of Companies. The entire contents of this book are ™ & © 2003 Top Cow Productions Inc. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted in any form without the express written consent of Marc Silvestri or Top Cow Productions Inc.





"THERE IS A MAGICAL OPERATION OF MAXIMUM IMPORTANCE: THE INITIATION OF A NEW AEON. WHEN IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO UTTER A WORD, THE WHOLE PLANET MUST BE BATHED IN BLOOD."  
--ALEISTER CROWLEY

LOOK AT YOU...





..SELF-  
PRDCLAIMED  
PROTECTORS  
OF MAN.

YOU CAN'T  
EVEN SAVE  
YOURSELVES.

KRAK!







WE EACH PLAY  
THE PART FATE  
HAS WRITTEN  
FOR US.



WE ARE  
COMPELLED  
INELUCTABLY DOWN  
PRE-ORDAINED  
PATHS.



FREE WILL IS  
AN ILLUSION.







YOUR DESTINIES HAVE BEEN FORETOLD.

YOUR FATE IS INESCAPABLE.

THE ORDER OF THE SARAFAN HAS BEEN KILLING MY KIND FOR AGES.

DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU CAN SUCCEED WHERE SO MANY OF YOUR BRETHREN HAVE FAILED?



YOU WILL JOIN COUNTLESS OTHERS BEFORE YOU AND ACCEPT MY GREATEST GIFT.

DEATH.





BLOOD

THE ETERNAL  
HUNGER OF MY  
KIND.

BUT HOW  
DIFFERENT CAN  
MY OWN DARK  
HEART BE?


I AM KAIN.

I AM THE LAST GUARDIAN--  
THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF  
THE CIRCLE OF NINE.

AT MY WHIM  
THE WORLD WILL  
BE HEALED...  
OR DAMNED.







WITH EACH STEP I TAKE INTO  
THE FUTURE MY CHOICES IN  
THE PAST GAIN IN IMPORTANCE.

BUT WILL MY ACTIONS  
BE ENOUGH?

ENOUGH TO ENSURE I TAKE  
MY RIGHTFUL PLACE AS  
RULER OF THIS WORLD?

I AM THE GUARDIAN  
OF BALANCE.

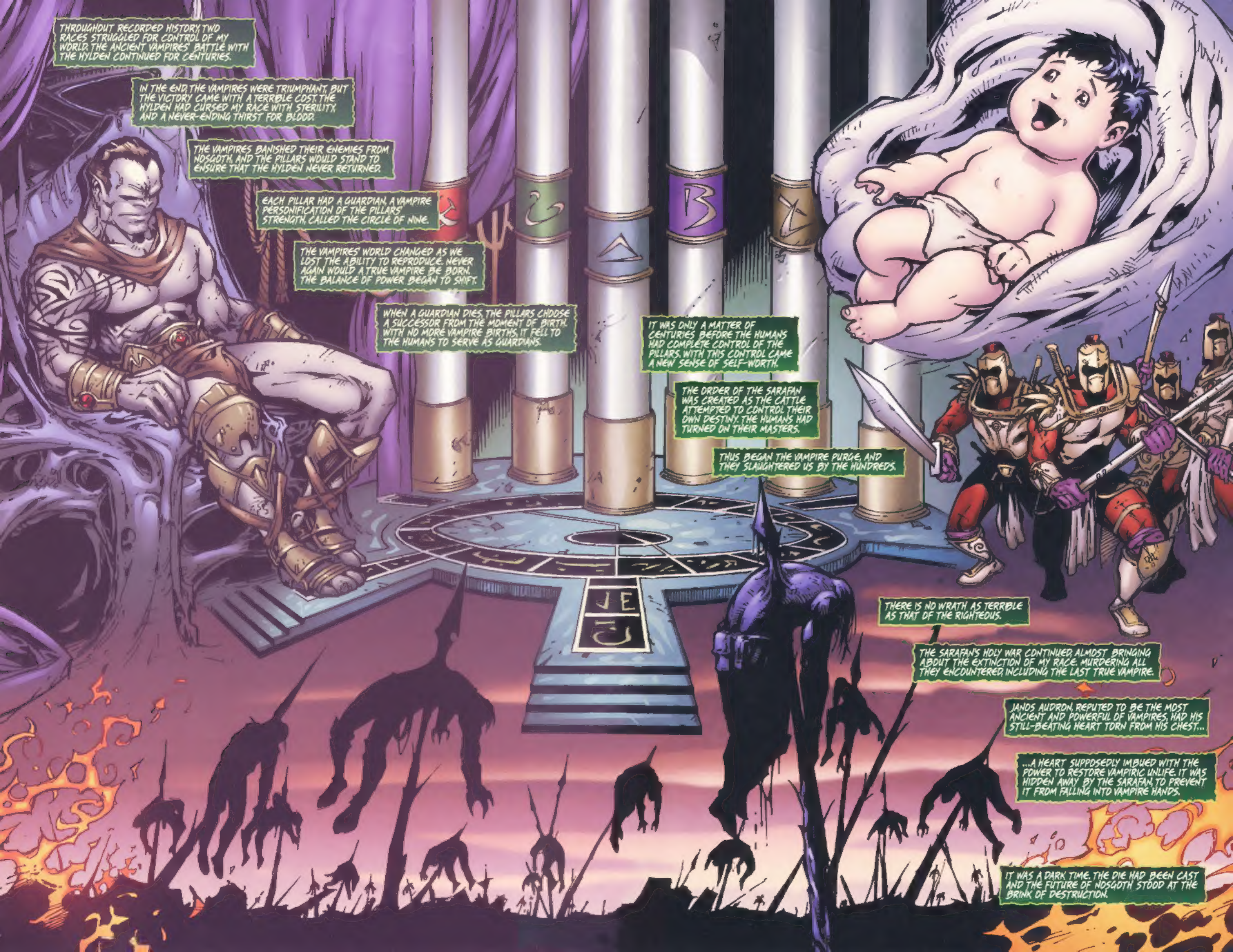
I HOLD THE FUTURE OF  
NOSGOOTH IN MY HANDS.

BUT MY JOURNEY  
HAS BEEN LONG.

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MISTAKES  
LITTERED ALONG THE WAY.

HOW FAR I HAVE TRAVELED  
SINCE THE BEGINNING.





THROUGHOUT RECORDED HISTORY TWO RACES STRUGGLED FOR CONTROL OF MY WORLD. THE ANCIENT VAMPIRES' BATTLE WITH THE HYLDEN CONTINUED FOR CENTURIES.

IN THE END, THE VAMPIRES WERE TRIUMPHANT, BUT THE VICTORY CAME WITH A TERRIBLE COST. THE HYLDEN HAD CURSED MY RACE WITH STERILITY AND A NEVER-ENDING THIRST FOR BLOOD.

THE VAMPIRES BANISHED THEIR ENEMIES FROM NOSGOTH, AND THE PILLARS WOULD STAND TO ENSURE THAT THE HYLDEN NEVER RETURNED.

EACH PILLAR HAD A GUARDIAN, A VAMPIRE PERSONIFICATION OF THE PILLAR'S STRENGTH, CALLED THE CIRCLE OF NINE.

THE VAMPIRES' WORLD CHANGED AS WE LOST THE ABILITY TO REPRODUCE. NEVER AGAIN WOULD A TRUE VAMPIRE BE BORN. THE BALANCE OF POWER BEGAN TO SHIFT.

WHEN A GUARDIAN DIES, THE PILLARS CHOOSE A SUCCESSOR FROM THE MOMENT OF BIRTH. WITH NO MORE VAMPIRE BIRTHS, IT FELL TO THE HUMANS TO SERVE AS GUARDIANS.

IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF CENTURIES BEFORE THE HUMANS HAD COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE PILLARS. WITH THIS CONTROL CAME A NEW SENSE OF SELF-WORTH.

THE ORDER OF THE SARAFAN WAS CREATED AS THE CATTLE ATTEMPTED TO CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY. THE HUMANS HAD TURNED ON THEIR MASTERS.

THUS BEGAN THE VAMPIRE PURGE, AND THEY SLAUGHTERED US BY THE HUNDREDS.

THERE IS NO WRATH AS TERRIBLE AS THAT OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

THE SARAFAN'S HOLY WAR CONTINUED ALMOST BRINGING ABOUT THE EXTINCTION OF MY RACE, MURDERING ALL THEY ENCOUNTERED, INCLUDING THE LAST TRUE VAMPIRE.

JANDS AUDRON, REPUTED TO BE THE MOST ANCIENT AND POWERFUL OF VAMPIRES, HAD HIS STILL-BEATING HEART TORN FROM HIS CHEST...

...A HEART SUPPOSEDLY IMBUED WITH THE POWER TO RESTORE VAMPIRIC UNLIFE. IT WAS HIDDEN AWAY BY THE SARAFAN, TO PREVENT IT FROM FALLING INTO VAMPIRE HANDS.

IT WAS A DARK TIME. THE DIE HAD BEEN CAST AND THE FUTURE OF NOSGOTH STOOD AT THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION.



MY OWN STORY IS UNIQUE IN THIS WORLD. I WAS BORN A HUMAN OF NOBLE BLOOD. ALTHOUGH I DID NOT KNOW IT THEN, I WAS ALSO BORN THE GUARDIAN OF BALANCE.

AS I WALKED OUT ON THAT COLD NIGHT, I HAD NO IDEA THAT MY FATE WAS ABOUT TO BE SEAL.

A PLAN HAD BEEN SET IN MOTION BY THE NECROMANCER MORTANIUS. THE CHANCE FOR HIS ATONEMENT LIE IN ORCHESTRATING MY MURDER AND RESURRECTION AS A VAMPIRE.

HE ALONE KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF MY CREATION - THE NEED FOR A CREATURE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO RESTORE BALANCE TO NOSGOTH.

CENTURIES AGO, UNDER THE POSSESSION OF A GREAT EVIL, MORTANIUS HAD COMMITTED AN ACT THAT THREATENED THE VERY EXISTENCE OF OUR WORLD.

MORTANIUS HAD MURDERED THE BALANCE GUARDIAN, ARIEL, AND SET FORTH A DANGEROUS TURN OF EVENTS.

ARIEL'S DEATH LED HER LOVER, NUPRATOR, TO INSANITY. A DISEASE THAT HE SPREAD TO HIS FELLOW GUARDIANS THROUGH THE CONNECTION THEY SHARED.

THIS MADNESS WAS THE REASON FOR MY RESURRECTION. I WAS TO CLEANSSE THIS SICKNESS FROM OUR WORLD AND RESTORE THE PILLARS.

THE OLD GUARDIANS FELL BEFORE ME, AND I BROUGHT BALANCE BACK TO THE PILLARS. ALL SAVE ONE THAT STILL STOOD IN RUIN.

IT WAS THEN I LEARNED THE TRUE NATURE OF MY FATE. THE MADNESS HAD DRIVEN THE DECAY DEEP WITHIN THE PILLARS.

THE DECAY WAS SO DEEP THAT ONLY THE DEATH OF ALL NINE GUARDIANS WOULD RESTORE THE PILLARS. COMPLETELY MY OWN DEATH AS THE BALANCE GUARDIAN WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RESTORE NOSGOTH, BUT WITH IT A TERRIBLE COST.

I WAS THE LAST VAMPIRE, AND MY DEATH WOULD ALSO MEAN THE EXTINCTION OF MY RACE, WHICH WAS A NATURAL PART OF THIS WORLD'S ORDER.

THE CHOICES REMAINED: KILL MYSELF AND RESTORE THE PILLARS TO FULL STRENGTH, WHILE MAKING EXTINCT A RACE THAT THIS WORLD WOULD NEED TO SURVIVE...

...OR CONTINUE MY EXISTENCE AND LET NOSGOTH SUFFER WHILE I RESTORED THE NATURAL ORDER.

I MADE THE ONLY CHOICE I COULD. THE VAMPIRES WOULD RULE AGAIN, WITH ME AS THEIR RIGHTFUL KING.



AND SO MY REIGN BEGAN. I WAS SECURE  
IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WITH ENOUGH  
INFORMATION I COULD DEVISE A PLAN  
BEND THE FATES TO MY WILL.

USING THE TIME-STREAMING DEVICES OF  
THE TREACHEROUS SORCERER MDSGOTH,  
I TRAVELLED THROUGH TIME, EXPLORING  
ALL PERIODS OF NOSGOTH.

IT WAS IN THESE TRAVELS THAT I DISCOVERED MY  
THIRD CHOICE—A SOLUTION FOR THE FUTURE TO  
ENSURE THE WORLD I WANTED WOULD COME TO PASS.

THE FIRST BORN OF MY  
LIEUTENANTS WAS RAZIEL,  
THE KEY TO MY FUTURE.

PATIENCE WAS MY MOST VALUABLE  
ALLY. MY PLANS FOR SECURING THE  
FUTURE OF NOSGOTH ONLY  
REQUIRED TIME AND CONFIDENCE.

RAZIEL FULFILLED HIS FATE WHEN I CAST HIM INTO  
THE ADYS, ENSURING HIS DESTINY, RE-BIRTHING  
AS A BEING LIKE NO OTHER IN THE LAND.


ONLY I KNEW THE TRUTH OF THE  
SOUL REAPER. THE TRUTH THAT  
WOULD BE RELEASED WHEN I  
STRUCK RAZIEL WITH THE SWORD.

LATER HE WOULD DISCOVER  
THE TERRIBLE TRUTH HIMSELF  
THAT IT IS HIS VERY SOUL  
CONTAINED IN THE SOUL REAPER  
BLADE IN A WORLD WHERE TIME  
MEANS VERY LITTLE. HIS DESTINY  
WAS ALREADY WRITTEN.

RAZIEL FULFILLED HIS ROLE TO  
PERFECTION AS HE SET OUT TO  
DESTROY HIS VERY BROTHER.







TIME HAD TAKEN ITS TOLL ON HIS BROTHER  
VAMPIRES. THEY HAD BECOME MONSTROUS  
REFLECTIONS OF THEIR OWN DARK SOULS.

RAZEEL TOOK THEIR POWER,  
AS HE TOOK THEIR LIVES.  
BUT EVEN THEN HE DID  
NOT SEE HIS TRUE DESTINY.

RAZEEL WAS LED BACK  
THROUGH HISTORY USING THE  
TIME-STREAMING DEVICES.

RAZEEL WOULD KILL THESE HEROES,  
INCLUDING THE YOUNG HUMAN HE ONCE  
WAS. THIS ACT WOULD ALLOW HIM TO  
RESURRECT THEM INTO THE LOCAL  
VAMPIRES THEY WOULD BECOME.


TIME TRAVEL WOULD ENSURE THAT THE  
EVENTS IN RAZEEL'S LIFE WOULD COME  
FULL CIRCLE, ALLOWING HIM TO PLAY A  
PART IN HIS OWN VAMPIRIC CREATION.

IN THE PAST FORGOTTEN IN THEIR  
VAMPIRIC TRANSFORMATION, MY  
LIEUTENANTS HAD ONCE BEEN  
PROUD SARAFIN HEROES, THE  
PRIDE OF THE ORDER.

THIS SET THE STAGE FOR ME TO TURN  
THE MOST RUTHLESS VAMPIRE  
KILLERS INTO THE MOST RUTHLESS  
VAMPIRES THIS WORLD HAD EVER SEEN.

HARD TO KILLER, FEEDING ON  
THE VERY SOCIETY THEY HAD  
PLEGGED TO PROTECT.





EVERYONE HE ENCOUNTERED SINCE HIS  
RE-BIRTH HAD MANIPULATED RAZIEL.  
NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS IN NISGOTH.

EVEN I, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, HAD MISLED  
HIM, HOLDING BACK INFORMATION TO ENSURE  
THE PROPER COURSE WAS TAKEN.

BUT EVERYTHING HAD GONE ACCORDING TO MY  
PLANS. EVEN THE OTHERS HAD UNKNOWINGLY  
STEERED HIM DOWN THE PATH I HAD CHOSEN.

THERE I WAS WATCHING AS RAZIEL  
FULFILLED HIS FATE AND BEGAN TO  
SURRENDER HIS SOUL TO THE DEATH  
BLADE AS IT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE.

EVERYTHING WAS IN MOTION. MY MOMENT  
HAD COME—MY ONE CHANCE TO CONTROL  
MY OWN DESTINY AND RE-DIRECT FATE.

I PULLED THE SOUL REAPER FROM  
HIM, mere moments before the  
BONDING COULD BE COMPLETED.  
BUT MY PLAN FAILED MORE THAN  
FAILER IT OPENED MY EYES TO THE  
TRUE THREAT TO NISGOTH.

WITH FATE CHANGED, I WAS FLOODED  
WITH NEW MEMORIES—MEMORIES  
OF WHY THE PILLARS WERE BUILT AND  
WHY THEY MUST NEVER FALL.

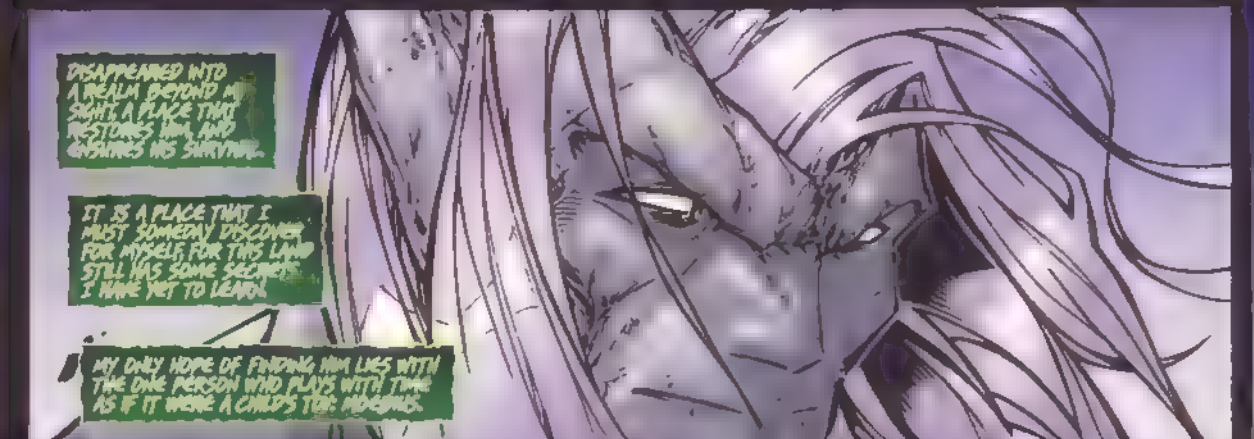
RAZIEL MEANS TO RESURRECT HANDS ANDRON  
AND THAT IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO STOP.  
THE HYLDEN, NEGLECTED IN MEMORY HAD  
A TRAP AND HE WALKED RIGHT INTO IT.





NOW I MUST FIND RAZIEL.


WHEN I STOPPED HIS SOUL  
FROM JOINING THE BLADE, HE  
SLIPPED FROM THIS REALITY.



DISAPPEARED INTO  
A REALM BEYOND MY  
SIGHT. A PLACE THAT  
RESTORES HIM, AND  
ENSURES HIS SURVIVAL.

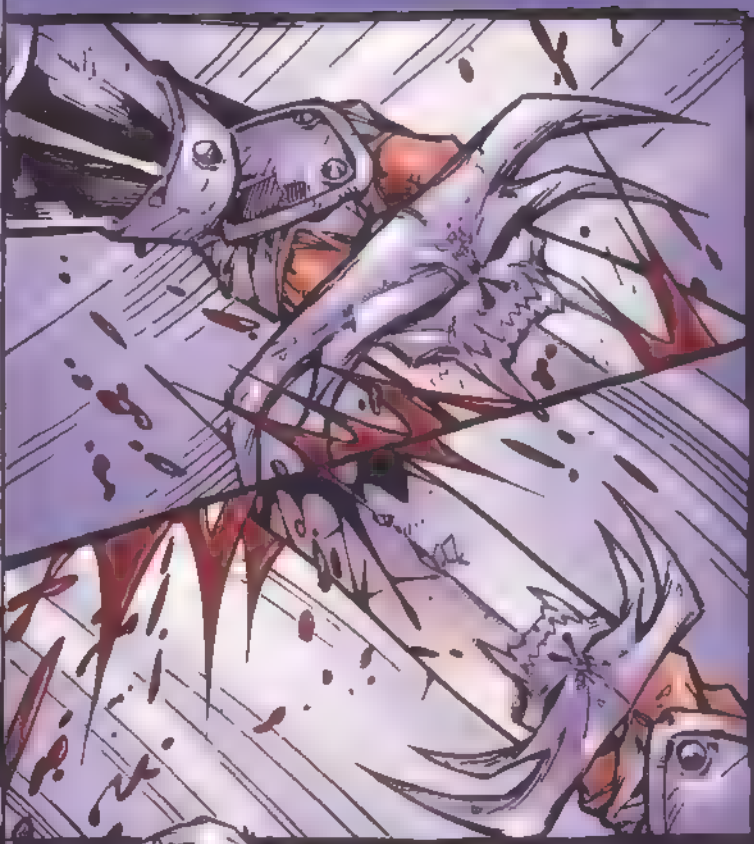
IT IS A PLACE THAT I  
MUST SOMEDAY DISCOVER  
FOR MYSELF. FOR THIS LAND  
STILL HAS SOME SECRETS  
I HAVE YET TO LEARN.

MY ONLY HOPE OF FINDING HIM LIES WITH  
THE ONE PERSON WHO PLAYS WITH TIME  
AS IF IT WERE A CHILD'S TOY: MORAGOS.



WELL, CATTLE?  
DO YOU NOT WISH TO  
AVENGE THE DEATHS  
OF YOUR FALLEN  
COMRADES?













BUT THE  
TIME FOR  
GAMES IS  
OVER.

THE TRUE  
BATTLE LIES  
AHEAD.

LET YOUR  
BLOOD GRANT ME  
THE STRENGTH  
I NEED.





Aaahh!!



GIVEN THE CHOICE, WHETHER TO  
RULE A CORRUPT AND FAILING  
EMPIRE OR TO CHALLENGE THE  
FATES FOR ANOTHER THROW, A  
BETTER THROW, AGAINST ONE'S  
DESTINY, WHAT IS A KING TO DO?

BUT DOES ONE EVER  
TRULY HAVE A CHOICE?

ONE CAN ONLY MATCH, MOVE BY MOVE,  
THE MACHINATIONS OF FATE, AND THUS  
DEFY THE TYRANNOUS STARS.



THE STORY CONTINUES IN  
THE LEGACY OF KAIN:  
DEFIANCE VIDEO GAME!